

AMENDMENTS

In the Claims:

Please amend the claims as indicated hereafter.

1-28. (Cancelled)

29. (New) A communication system, comprising:

a plurality of network elements, each of the network elements coupled to a respective subscriber line extending from a respective field office of a communication network to a respective customer premise and configured to control communication occurring on the respective subscriber line;

a plurality of clients remotely located from the network elements, the plurality of clients including at least a first client and a second client, the first client configured to receive a user input for selecting one of the network elements or a network element type; and

an element management system (EMS), the EMS comprising:

memory for storing sets of graphical user interface (GUI) code, each set of GUI code associated with a respective network element type; and

a system controller configured to select one of the sets of GUI code in response to the user input based on the network element type associated with the selected set of GUI code, the system further configured to transmit the selected set of GUI code to the first client during a first communication session between the EMS and the first client, wherein the selected set of GUI code, when run on the first client, causes the first client to display a GUI for enabling a user to establish a provision template for provisioning at least one of the network elements, the provision template having a plurality of control values, each of the control values indicative of how the user of the first client has specified a respective network element attribute is to be provisioned, the system controller configured to receive the provision template from the

first client during the first communication session and to associate the provision template with an identifier identifying the provision template, the system controller further configured to store the provision template in the memory of the EMS, the system controller configured to receive a request from the second client during a second communication session between the EMS and the second client, the request identifying a plurality of the network elements, the system controller further configured to retrieve the provision template based on the identifier and to automatically provision, in response to the request, each of the plurality of network elements identified by the request based on the control values of the retrieved provision template.

30. (New) The communication system of claim 29, wherein the system controller is configured to provision the plurality of network elements identified by the request by transmitting each of the control values to each of the plurality of network elements identified by the request.

31. (New) The communication system of claim 29, wherein the system controller is configured to automatically provision, in response to the request, each of the plurality of network elements identified by the request without transmitting the control values of the provision template to the second client during the second communication session.

32. (New) A method for use in a communication system having a plurality of network elements, each of the network elements coupled to a respective subscriber line extending from a field office of a communication network to a respective customer premise, comprising the steps of:

- storing sets of graphical user interface (GUI) code;
- associating each set of GUI code with a respective network element type;
- receiving, at a first client, a user input for selecting one of the plurality of network elements or a network element type;
- selecting one of the sets of GUI code in response to the user input based on the network element type associated with the selected set of GUI code;
- transmitting the selected set of GUI code to the first client during a first communication session with the first client, wherein the selected set of GUI code, when run on the first client, causes the first client to display a GUI for enabling a user to establish a provision template for provisioning at least one of the network elements;
- receiving the provision template from the first client, the provision template having a plurality of control values, each of the control values indicative of how the user of the first client has specified a respective network element attribute is to be provisioned;
- associating the provision template with an identifier identifying the provision template;
- storing the provision template;
- receiving a request from a second client during a second communication session with the second client, the request identifying a plurality of the network elements;
- retrieving the provision template based on the identifier; and
- automatically provisioning, in response to the request, each of the plurality of network elements identified by the request based on the control values of the retrieved provision template.

33. (New) The method of claim 32, wherein the provisioning step comprises the steps of:

transmitting at least one of the control values to each of the plurality of network elements identified by the request; and
updating control values stored in the network elements identified by the request based on the at least one control value transmitted in the transmitting step.

34. (New) The method of claim 32, wherein the automatically provisioning step is performed without transmitting the control values of the provision template to the second client during the second communication session.